



Park Lawn Preschool Inc.

*Park Lawn Preschool **

*Humber Bay Child Care Centre **

PLP Early Learning Centre at St. Mark

PLP HS 200 Management and Reporting of Communicable Diseases and Exclusion of Ill Children and Staff

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Legal Review: TPH Guidance

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Status: Approved

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Prepared by: B. Leung

Park Lawn Preschool Inc. is committed to responding to, managing and reporting all communicable diseases to Toronto Public Health to prevent the spread of germs and disease in our child care centres and to follow the most recent Infection Prevention and Control Guidance Document.

Communicable Disease Surveillance:

Parents must call the child care centre if their child is absent due to illness, to communicate the symptoms that their child is experiencing. As children are more susceptible to communicable diseases and illnesses it is important that staff and parents follow strict guidelines.

Staff performs daily observations of children upon arrival in the morning and at after school pick up in order to help detect possible symptoms of ill health.

Surveillance will include recording of the following:

- Attendance and absence of children and staff
- Signs and symptoms of illness (observing children upon arrival)
- Dates and times that the symptoms started
- Time that the ill child was picked up from the child care centre
- Dates of field trips, outings and special events
- Records will be kept in the classroom's illness log and attendances and absences will be recorded on HiMama.

Children will not be admitted into the child care centre when:

- they are exhibiting symptoms of illness that prevents them from participating in activities;
- they require greater need for care than our child care staff can provide; or
- their illness poses a serious health risk if spread to others
- their immunization is not up to date, nor is an exemption form on file.

Exclusion and Isolation/Cohorting of Ill Children and Staff

To prevent the spread of illness in the child care centres, children and staff with symptoms of illness should not attend child care.

Exclusion of Children:

Children may be excluded from child care if they have an illness which may be communicable to others. If during the day, a child displays illness symptoms and is not well enough to participate in regular activities, then parents will be notified immediately and will be required to pick up their child within 2 hours. In the event the parent is unable to pick up their child and where it appears that the child

requires immediate medical attention, then Park Lawn Preschool Inc. will arrange for transport to the nearest hospital.

Steps for excluding an ill child:

- Separate the child with a suspected illness from other children in a designated area where the child must be separated by at least 2 meters/6 feet from others to prevent the spread of illness. If this is not possible, separate the ill child from others as best as possible.
- If possible, designate a staff to care for the sick child.
- Contact the parent/guardian to pick up the child.
- All symptoms of illness will be documented in the Illness Log.

Exclusion of Staff

Staff that are exhibiting symptoms of illness should not be at work to prevent the spread of illness. Staff are also required to follow the same TPH exclusion guidelines.

Respiratory illnesses are caused by germs found in saliva and nasal secretions and are spread via the respiratory tract when infected persons sneeze or cough. Coughs and colds are common respiratory illnesses. Children with only mild symptoms are able to participate in regular activities will be admitted to the child care centre however, children who are lethargic and unable to participate in the program **will be sent home**.

Fevers of 38°C or 100°F or higher and are accompanied by one or more of the following symptoms- unusual behaviour, runny nose, cough, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, change in skin colour, rash, headache- and the child is not able to participate in regular activities, then the child **will be sent home IMMEDIATELY and must stay home until the child's temperature has returned to normal for a period of at least 24 hours and the child is well enough to participate in regular activities**.

Gastrointestinal –Diarrhea and Vomiting are common symptoms of gastrointestinal illnesses. While some children may only have a mild case, the children they infect could end up becoming seriously ill and therefore, children with more than one instance of diarrhea or who have been vomiting **will be sent home IMMEDIATELY and must stay home until 24 HOURS after the diarrhea or vomiting HAS STOPPED**.

It is extremely important that if your child has had diarrhea or vomiting at home, you do not bring them to the child care centre until 24 hours have passed.

Gastrointestinal illnesses may also include symptoms of abdominal cramps, fever, and nausea. Children with these symptoms may also be sent home, depending on the severity of the symptoms.

Rashes can be a symptom of many communicable illnesses and one rash may be difficult to distinguish from another. Rashes can be spread from person to person contact or can be airborne. If the child develops a rash while in child care, parents will be notified immediately and will be required to pick up their child. The child will not be able to return to the child care until the rash is completely gone or the parent has a written physician's note stating that the child's rash is not contagious.

Children who arrive at the child care centre with a visible rash, must have a physician's note indicating that the child's rash is not contagious before they will be admitted to the child care centre.

Pediculosis: Head Lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp where they lay eggs (“nits”). Head lice are spread easily in groups of children and are very common in child care settings. If eggs (“nits”) or live lice are found on the child’s scalp, the child is considered to be infected and will be removed from the group. Staff will notify the parents immediately and the child must be picked up from the child care centre.

The child may be readmitted only after treatment for head lice has been applied AND that the child’s scalp has been checked by a child care staff AND is found to be clear of eggs and lice.

If eggs or live lice are still found on the scalp, even after treatment, the child will not be admitted into the child care centre. Parents must re-treat the child’s scalp and thoroughly check the scalp and comb out any eggs or lice with a fine comb. Staff will re-check the child’s scalp upon arrival at the child care centre.

Other Illnesses may prevent a child from participating in regular activities so the child may be sent home.

In addition to these above policies, Park Lawn Preschool Inc. follows [Toronto Public Health’s Guidelines for Communicable Disease](#) chart for illnesses, symptoms, infectious periods and exclusion.

Parents must notify the Centre when they suspect or have confirmation that their child has a communicable disease. This will help the child care centre put in place proper procedures to prevent the spread of the illnesses and to report any **reportable communicable diseases** as required by Toronto Public Health.

Parents may also be required to provide a physician’s note for their child stating “the child is no longer contagious” if they had been confirmed to have a communicable disease, before they can return to the centre.

Reportable Communicable Diseases

The Centre Supervisor or designate must contact Toronto Public Health Communicable Diseases Surveillance Unit (CDSU) at (416) 392-7411 to report any reportable communicable diseases.

Chicken Pox typically has a generalized, itchy rash: crops of small red spots turn into fluid-filled blisters that crust as they resolve. Exclusion is not required if the child is well enough to participate.

Norwalk (Norovirus) has a sudden onset of water diarrhea, abdominal cramps and nausea. Symptoms last from 24 to 60 hours. Exclusion is required until the child is 24 hours symptom free or 48 hours symptom free during an outbreak.

Measles presents itself with high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes for 2 to 4 days before a rash starts. Rash begins on the face as small red spots, which enlarge and clump together and spread down the body. Exclusion is required until 4 days after the beginning of the rash and when the child is able to participate.

Mumps are swollen and tender glands at the jawline on one or both sides of the face. It may include fever, malaise, headache, inflamed testes and respiratory symptoms (especially for children aged five and under.) Exclusion is required until 5 days after the onset of parotid gland swelling.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) usually begins with a runny nose and cough. Cough progressively becomes frequent and severe and may result in a high-pitch whoop sound. Loss of breath or vomiting after coughing bouts may occur and may last 6 to 10 weeks. Exclusion is required until 5 days of appropriate antibiotics have been completed. If untreated, until 21 days after onset of cough.

Rubella (German Measles) is characterized by a red rash, low-grade fever and swelling of glands in the neck and behind the ears. usually uncomplicated illness in children. Exclusion is required for 7 days after onset of rash.

Communicable Diseases for Pregnant Women

Some communicable diseases may have a mild effect on adults, some may have more severe implications for pregnant women. The centre supervisor will inform parents and staff when cases of these communicable diseases are reported to the child care centre.

Pregnant women should contact their physician immediately if cases of the following communicable diseases are reported at the child care centre:

- Chicken Pox
- Fifth Disease
- Measles
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Rubella

Links:

[Infection Prevention and Control in Child Care Centres](#)

CHANGE LOG

POL #	REV #	Date	Summary of Changes	Revised By	Approved By
HS 200	1	Feb 22, 2022	Added List of reportable communicable disease Added designated areas for isolation Exclusion child/staff Moved immunization to HS201	B. Leung	

